

OPERA OPENING IS BRILLIANT DESPITE WAR

Notable Throng Gathers to
Hear "Un Ballo in
Maschera."

RESTRAINT YIELDS TO SINGER'S CHARM

The seventh season of opera at the Metropolitan Opera House under the direction of Giulio Gatti-Casazza began last evening. The opera selected for the occasion was Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera," chosen doubtless because it made possible the employment of several of the most popular singers in the company. The magic of Mr. Caruso's name is always potent, although its spell is not needed for the success of an opening night. That the famous tenor sang last evening was due to the wish of the impresario to give his first night patrons his best attraction.

The audience which assembled for this introductory choral of a most promising season was of that brilliant type familiar to local opera-goers. The assemblage was adequately representative of the culture, the refinement and the beauty of the town, as well as of its wealth and prosperity. It was an audience well acquainted with opera music and opera singing, as well as with the singers of the evening, and its applause disclosed not only pleasure in the art of the hour but a deeper and more serious satisfaction in the successful opening of a season which at one time seemed problematical. There was something in the applause for the silent impresario whose diplomacy had opened the doors of barracks and the gates of prisons.

One would have supposed that in these conditions the receptions to the several artists would be of unusual warmth. On the contrary they were very restrained, and it was not till some of the stirring numbers were reached that the audience awoke to a realization of the two facts that their singers had brought all their powers back with them and were giving of their best. After that it was an opera night like any other—recalls, bravi, cheers, flowers and much excited conversation.

An Opera of Melody.

"Un Ballo in Maschera" was restored to the repertoire of the Metropolitan Opera House on November 22, 1913. Previous to that it had not been heard there since the season of 1904-5, when Mmes. Eames, Homer and Alten and Messrs. Caruso, Scotti, Journet and Plancon were the members of the cast. In the 1914 restoration the singers were all those heard again last evening. On both occasions the work itself served as a subject of comment of more or less obvious character, for he would indeed be a genius who could find anything new and at the same time true to say about it. The most unavoidable comment is that it is a very fine specimen of the typical opera of its period and that it provides a good field for that style of singing in which the famous artists of the late '80s and early '90s excelled. One would like to have heard, for instance, the first Paris performance with Mario, Graziani and others. And many things would like very much to know whether the passionate utterance of Mario was more interesting than the vigorous musical speech of Caruso.

However, the past may be permitted to go to its rest. It is not likely that any one ever saw Riccardo better than the present interpreter of the role. With him and his associates cooperating in the opera, the cast from the broad model, with frank and clearly phrased melodies, with ensembles designed skillfully for stage uses, with some joyous decorative passages, struck out with a variety and with no mistaking fineness, and with orchestration not profound but well suited to the drama, will furnish a pleasant evening for even the most sophisticated listeners of the day. As for those not wholly given over to the music.

Merits of the Performance.

There is always something to make one happy in a performance of "Un Ballo in Maschera." If there were no other source of joy even a hardened opera-goer of middle age would have to feel the infectious "carnal" of the opera, and would most eagerly join him (very closely) in his ceaseless babbling about the stage. Of course he sings. In operas every one sings, and the question of the hour is "Was he or not in good voice?" This question will be answered by morning papers not less than 1,000 times in the course of the season. But if you ask the singers who will learn that they are always in good voice.

Last night they all were, and they gave a performance which for general merit, variety and brilliant vocal technique would be hard to equal. Mr. Caruso was a joy. He was in perfect command of his big voice and he sang not only with perfect freedom of tone but with consummate art in phrase and music. His contributions to the performance alone have sufficed to justify the revival of the old opera.

Mme. Destinn as Amelia, Mrs. Matzner as Elvira and Miss Hepler as Oscar all sang admirably. Mr. Amato as Renato was a handsome picture and again delivered the music in a manner which seemed well suited to the drama. Messrs. Caruso and Rother were the comedians.

The opera was conducted by Mr. Toscanini, the profoundest secrets of which were not uncovered by the demands of this conventional score. But his unflinching zeal, his firm command and his personal inspiration made themselves felt throughout the evening. Chorus and orchestra.

Continued on Fifth Page.

FIRE FIRST, THEN SHIPWRECK.

After Being Hit by Lightning.

EASTPORT, Me., Nov. 16.—The three-masted schooner M. K. Rawley, which left Eastport for Clyde River, N. S., last Thursday, after having been struck by lightning and severely damaged two days before in the Bay of Fundy. The vessel ran into an electric storm Friday evening near Cape Sable. A gasoline tank in the deckhouse was hit by lightning and exploded and the forecastle and foremast were destroyed by fire. For three hours the crew fought the flames and the schooner put in at St. John, N. B. On its second attempt to reach its destination the vessel encountered a storm near Campobello Island and was driven ashore and pounded to pieces on Spruce Island.

SUBMARINES IN CAPE COD CANAL.

Avoid High Seas on Way to Newport for Torpedoes.

RIZZARDS BAY, Mass., Nov. 16.—Two submarines, the K-5 and K-6, passed through the Cape Cod Canal today on their way from the Charlestown navy yard to the Newport naval station. They were the first Government boats to use the canal since the opening day, when a torpedo boat went through.

AMERICAN RAILROADS GO HIGHER IN LONDON

Heavy Buying for New York
Account—Situation
Improves.

LONDON, Nov. 16.—The feature of the day's dealings in Throgmorton street was the heavy cash buying of American railroad stocks for New York account. This lifted prices well above the minimum.

No serious difficulty is anticipated in regard to the settlement on November 18 in the American and other sections. A prominent American broker told the correspondent of THE SUN that the situation had been exceedingly well handled. It is improved and will continue to improve. The members are cooperating to prevent individual hardships.

YELLOW FEVER IN MEXICO.

Two on Steamer Arriving at Havana
Thought to Have Plague.

HAVANA, Nov. 16.—Two passengers on the steamer Esperanza, from Progreso, which arrived here today, showed signs of yellow fever. They were isolated for observation. Mexican papers which arrived on the steamer, report two cases of yellow fever at Merida, in the State of Yucatan.

OSTRICH DINNERS FOR CHICAGO.

Will Take Place of Thanksgiving
Turkey in Large Restaurants.

CHICAGO, Nov. 16.—Shades of the Pilgrim forefathers! The ostrich is to supplant the turkey as the piece de resistance for Thanksgiving dinner in several of the large restaurants in Chicago.

And it is going to become a fad if commission merchants in South Water street have their way.

According to connoisseurs, the ostrich is a dainty morsel for the banquet board, there being many juicy cuts that are even sweeter than those of the gobbler.

The first shipment of ostriches has arrived from a farm near Glendale, Ariz., and others are to follow. Three restaurants have taken all of the first shipment at prices around 50 cents a pound. The most delicate ostrich will dress about fifty pounds, according to the commission men.

Trenches Turned to Rivers by Rain

Troops in Danger of Being
Washed Out as Bat-
tle Rages.

LONDON, Nov. 17.—A despatch from northern France to the Times dated yesterday says: "The rain has been so heavy that the trenches have been turned into rivers. The troops are in danger of being washed out as the battle rages."

Football Injuries Fatal.

New Brighton, Pa., Nov. 16.—Fred Treese, seventeen-year-old quarterback on the New Brighton High School football team, is dead from concussion of the brain, sustained Saturday in a football game between the local team and the New Wilmington High team.

Hotel Clarendon, Seagreeze, Florida.
Representative, 110 Bay. Tel. Madison Sq. 414.
—Adt.

NO SECURITY FOR \$500,000 SIEGEL SOUGHT

R. G. McMeekin Says He
Blocked Plan to Turn
Over Cash to Stores.

"KEY" REVEALED TRUE CONDITION OF BOOKS

GENESEE, Nov. 16.—Robert G. McMeekin, secretary-treasurer of the Siegel Stores Corporation, which was the holding company for the Siegel enterprises, described today at the trial of Henry Siegel for alleged grand larceny an attempt by Siegel and Frank E. Vogel to turn over to the Siegel stores without security \$500,000 in cash which was received from the sale of part of the preferred stock of the corporation soon after it was organized in June, 1909. McMeekin's objection to the transaction, he said, was what finally led to the stores giving demand notes for loans made out of this cash.

This matter of fact admission by the witness, who was called by Assistant District Attorney Train at the close of the cross-examination of Frank L. Champion, Siegel's bank cashier, just preceded an equally remarkable statement which was foreshadowed in Mr. Train's address to the jury at the opening of the trial—that Siegel asked McMeekin one day in the Hotel Majestic, New York, after his indictment to go to the Public Library and find out for him what countries have no extradition treaties with the United States. McMeekin told him then he ought to take that matter up with his counsel and did not do as requested.

With almost dramatic precision Justice William W. Clark declared an adjournment for the day at this point in the testimony. Most of the jurors had leaned forward in their chairs to catch every word McMeekin said, for the former Siegel officer did not talk any too loud. Siegel himself sat almost unseen in a high chair beside his counsel, nervously rubbing his forehead with his hand.

Interest Paid—Sometimes.

Previously McMeekin had told of the incorporation of the \$10,000,000 Siegel Stores Corporation in 1909 as a holding company for the Simpson-Crawford store, the Fourteenth Street Store and Siegel, Cooper & Co. of Chicago. Two million dollars of the capital stock was preferred stock, and about one-fourth of the stock was sold to Siegel employees and others in this part of the world. The corporation owned the Simpson-Crawford store, the capital stock of the Fourteenth Street Store and 52 per cent of the stock of the Chicago concern.

After a conference between Siegel, Vogel and Max Pann, said McMeekin, he was asked to turn over without security \$500,000 of the cash proceeds of the sale of the preferred stock as "working capital for the underlying companies." It was to be a gift and not a loan, he said, the secretary-treasurer told the conferees that it could not be done that way. Then it was decided to loan the money on demand notes from the various stores.

McMeekin testified that \$150,000 was loaned in this fashion to the three underlying companies and the Henry Siegel Company of Boston. The notes bore interest at 7 per cent, but no money was paid and sometimes it wasn't. The first loan was made to the Simpson-Crawford Company on a note from the Boston store, which deal was also frowned upon by McMeekin because the Boston concern was not an underlying company, but the other officers of the company approved.

In the cross-examination of Champion, the Fourteenth Street Store cashier, it was apparent the defense aimed to shift the responsibility for the alleged questionable financial statements and transactions to Frank E. Vogel, the Siegel partner in the Siegel business and banking venture.

The bank cashier testified that \$68,000 in loans by the bank to the Siegel stores, extending over nine years, were not carried on the bank's books until September 18, 1913, three months and a half before the receivership, but merely on slips known as "cash items" and on loan sheets.

Champion Put on Stand.

Champion was on the stand when court convened this morning.

"Was there any entry on any book or any record kept of the \$68,000 loan from the Siegel bank to the Siegel enterprises?" asked Mr. Train.

"The only record I received was a sheet of paper with tickets pinned to it," was the answer.

"Was there any record other than this paper?" "Not in my hands."

Q. Do you know of any? A. No. Q. Then the books of the Siegel bank did not show these loans on January 21, 1913? A. No.

The loans in the meantime had always appeared in the private record.

All these questions were answered over the strong objection of Mr. Stanchfield. The answers were received with evidence of satisfaction by the prosecution because Siegel is charged with having received \$684,055 from the National Bank of Commerce on a false statement of his business condition which was made to the National Bank of Commerce.

Thereafter Champion's testimony was given from his own records and step by step he told of the increasing indebtedness of the stores to the private bank. He had recourse to the public books, as they are called, and he consulted frequently the private ledger, which he has said was only for the eyes of the partners. It developed that the \$68,000 loan really was carried as a cash item of the bank instead of a liability of the stores.

You carried along your cash item a slip of paper recording the \$68,000 loan, didn't you?" asked Mr. Train.

"Yes," answered the witness. Then came the key question.

Q. Did you have a paper which could be slipped over a page of the statement called a key? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would that key sheet show to whom the money was loaned? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you one of those key sheets or

SAY U.S. ORDERS ENVOYS TO FIND WHO LAD MINES

London Hears Page and Ger-
ard Have Been Told
to Investigate.

RESULT OF PROTEST BY NEUTRAL NATIONS

LONDON, Nov. 16.—A report has reached here from Washington to the effect that the United States has instructed Mr. Page, the American Ambassador here, and Mr. Gerard, the American Ambassador at Berlin, to obtain the fullest information as to the responsibility for the laying of mines in the North Sea.

This news is welcomed here, as the British attitude is that whatever mines the English have laid have been necessary as counter moves to the activities of the Germans in this direction. The British area of mines has been thoroughly defined, although since the discovery that the mine laying by the Germans extended even to the north coast of Ireland, by means of which the White Star liner Olympic was endangered, it has been largely extended.

The British Government regrets exceedingly that the action of Germany forced her to express mine laying. This view was counter in a protest issued by the Foreign Office on September 26 to all neutral nations, in which the means of warfare and the conduct resorted to by the Germans were emphatically repudiated and the feeling was expressed that its manifest inhumanity must call upon the author the censure of all civilized peoples.

Up to the date of this protest mines had been found as much as fifty miles from the coast. They had caused the destruction of eight neutral and seven British merchantmen and fishing vessels and the death of sixty neutral, non-combatant persons.

Dangerous to Shipping.

It was pointed out by the British protest that the laying of mines indiscriminately in the high seas, entirely regardless of the dangers to peaceful shipping, violated the principles of international law and the primary dictates of humanity.

"Not only," continued the protest, "has the German Government neglected to take every possible precaution for the safety of neutral shipping, but on the contrary has deliberately sought danger in its track. The mine-layers have not been kept under observation, nor notice given of the locality of the mines, whilst in numerous cases mines have been found adrift from their moorings without having become harmless."

Some of the charges of Germany in contradiction to the words of Baron Marschall von Riberstein at the last peace convention, where he stated that a "belligerent" lays the mine, is a heavy responsibility toward the peaceful shipping of neutrals. No one will resort to such means unless for military reasons of an absolute nature, and the duty imposed by the principles of humanity will be the surest guide to the conduct of sailors and will constitute the most effective guarantee against abuse.

"Officers of the German navy emphatically affirm that they will always fulfill in the strictest fashion the duties which mankind has imposed upon them as officers of humanity and civilization."

In view of Great Britain's attitude from the beginning of hostilities any inquiry about the part of Germany in the laying of mines and the responsibility for mine laying and thereby rendering the North Sea dangerous to neutral shipping will be heartily welcomed.

The frequent destruction of neutral vessels by mines in the North Sea has caused much indignation in several countries, especially Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Some time ago these three countries asked the United States to join them in a formal protest.

No reply was sent, so far as known, but it was announced from Washington last week that the United States was trying to fix the responsibility for the mine laying and that after this had been ascertained action might be taken accordingly.

It was announced on Monday that Sweden, Norway and Denmark had sent a formal protest to the belligerent nations in reference to the mine laying in the North Sea, which they urged neutral commerce and navigation.

British Accuse Germans.

The British Admiralty issued a notice on November 2 to the effect that the Germans had indiscriminately mined the trade route between America and Liverpool via the north of Ireland. This was followed by a statement that the liner Olympic had struck a floating mine and the Admiralty asserted that these mines were laid by a German merchant vessel flying a neutral flag. The Admiralty therefore issued notice that the whole of the North Sea was regarded as a military area in which merchant shipping was exposed to the gravest danger from mines.

Germany made a categorical denial of the British charges that she had violated the provisions of the Hague peace agreements in the laying of mines. She stated that she had never used fishing boats or vessels flying neutral flags in laying mines. All the mines laid by Germany, the statement said, were laid by warships.

The German statement declared further that Germany had laid no mines in the high seas. All her mines were laid as near to England's harbors as possible, and the character of the bottom permitted. All were carefully anchored and all neutral Powers had been fully informed of their presence.

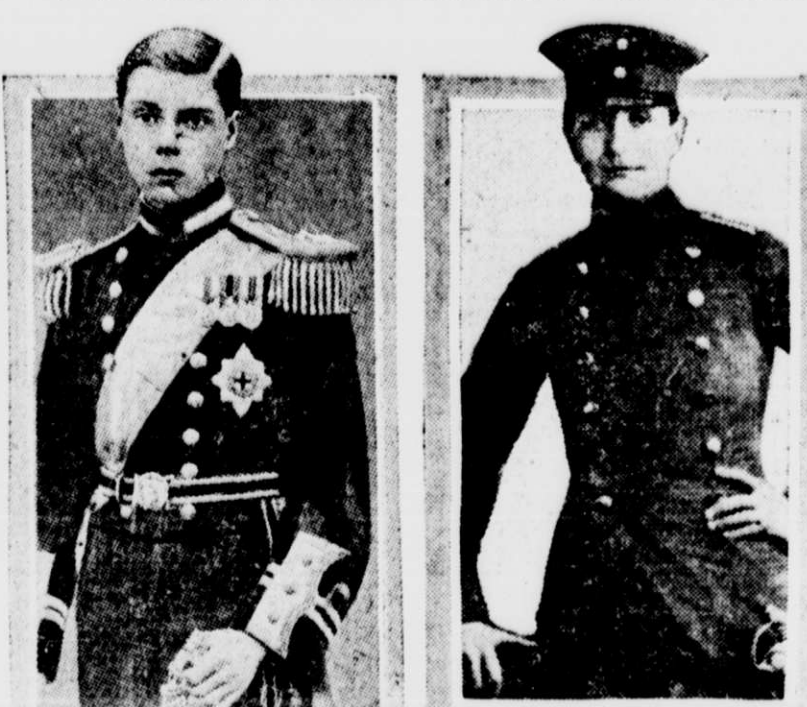
MINE IN SCHMIDT KILLS SEVEN.

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 16.—The Dutch Ministry of Marine announced that three naval officers, one civilian and three sailors were killed when a floating mine exploded near Westerschelde, Belgium, today. Between thirty and forty mines were seen in the Scheldt river flushing yesterday. Some were destroyed by torpedoes and others were washed ashore.

GREEN SHIP SCOTCH AND SWISS SHIPS.

Ask for the Black Bottle With the Green Stripes.
—Adt.

PRINCE OF WALES OFF TO WAR; KAISER'S SON BACK TO FIGHT



The Prince of Wales. Prince Oscar of Prussia.

BOULOGNE, Nov. 16.—The young Prince of Wales landed here this afternoon from a British warship and was received by Prince Arthur of Connaught.

The Prince was in the regulation service uniform of khaki. He will serve on the headquarters staff.

A week after the outbreak of the war it was officially announced in London that the Prince of Wales had received a commission in the Grenadier Guards and that he would join his regiment at once. Later on the Grenadier Guards were ordered to the front, but the Prince was not allowed to accompany them on the ground that he had not completed his military training.

Reports Poles in Revolt in East Prussia and Posen

Neutral Traveller Says Residents Charge That Germans
Neglect Provinces Where Slavs Are in Majority and
Are Continually Sacrificing Polish Regiments.

By the London "Daily Mail" War Service.
Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 16.—A neutral traveller who has just returned from Posen says that the spirit of insurrection is increasing in East Prussia and the Polish districts of Posen and Silesia.

The Poles charge that the Prussians have been neglecting these provinces because most of their inhabitants, particularly in the eastern districts, are Slavs, and there are no German sympathies in their hearts now.

They say also, said the traveller, that the Prussians themselves are leaving waste many frontier districts in order to hinder the advance of the Russians. The German Government has promised the inhabitants compensation for the damage done, but they will never be repaid for their distress over the loss of their goods and health.

The Poles believe that if the threatened provinces are now becoming the battlegrounds were inhabited by Prussians the Germans would have defended them first.

They also complain that the Prussians are continually using the Polish regiments as "cannon fodder," but are sparing of their own men.

The Germans suspect that the Poles are inclined to help the Russians and as a result an elaborate system of espionage has been organized.

Great armies are being concentrated near Thorn, Posen and Breslau, and only in the most urgent necessity will the Germans move troops from the west front.

SOCIALISTS OPPOSE WAR.

Not United in Supporting Kaiser—
Talk of Republic Groups.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.

BERLIN, via London, Oct. 28.—The unanimity of the German Socialists in supporting the Kaiser and his war policy is not nearly so firm and unimpaired as was reported from the fatherland would make it appear.

This is shown by a letter written by a Social Democratic delegate to the Reichstag, Dr. Karl Liebknecht, to the Berliner Tageblatt, published in yesterday's issue.

To those who have closely followed the trend of German domestic affairs and the shaping of the inner policies as a consequence of the war, as expressed in the German press despite the rigid censorship, a note of restiveness, especially among the Socialist faction, has for some time been a matter of particular interest. The more so as it is in direct contrast with the constant reports of "one great united empire" cabled to the United States since the outbreak of the war the Socialist organ, Vorwaerts, has been suspended three times for criticism of the German military authorities and of the Government.

Dr. Liebknecht, in writing to the Tageblatt, asserts that he takes advantage of the German law concerning corrections of erroneous press reports. The letter follows:

In your report of the session of the delegates on October 22, it is stated that when Dr. Liebknecht read the message of the Kaiser to the Reichstag, the entire House (which would mean including the Socialist faction) arose. This is not true. Every single member of the Social Democratic faction remained seated when the Kaiser's message was read.

In regard to the closing message of the president, your report asserts that the entire House applauded and chimed in the "Hoch." This, too, is incorrect. Five members of the Social Democratic faction,

GERMANS FAIL IN NEW EFFORT TO CROSS YSER

French War Office Reports
That Line in Flanders
Holds.

ENTIRE REGIMENT IS WIPE OUT BY ALLIES

Big Force of Kaiser's Troops
Said to Be Cut Off
at Dixmude.

RESUME OFFENSIVE AND REGAIN GROUND

More Ground Flooded Along
Yser—Attacks in Ar-
gonne Checked.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Nov. 16.—The Germans were so savagely repulsed along the River Yser yesterday that an entire regiment was annihilated near Bixschote, while near Ypres two attacks failed signally and the Germans in retreat surrendered positions gained in previous days at terrible sacrifice.

This is the official report from Gen. Joffre, who informed the Government to-night that today had brought no change in the general situation. It is assumed here that the Germans are exhausted, temporarily at any rate, and need time to draw breath and fill gaps in their lines. There can be no doubt that their losses in the past week have been staggering. It is reported from Switzerland that the dead arriving at Brussels by the trainload for cremation are almost past count.

The grip of winter is falling on Flanders. Snowfall followed by cold rains is flooding the trenches and increasing the suffering on both sides. It is reported from Rotterdam that a big force of Germans has been cut off by floods as the result of heavy rain and snow near Dixmude.

In an attempt yesterday to relieve the strain on their position at St. Mihiel, where they have maintained a wedge between Verdun and Toul for weeks, the Germans attacked the French at Apremont, eight miles east of St. Mihiel, and were driven back. Verdun seems to be as safe as at any time since the war began. In Alsace also the pinch of winter is being felt and military operations are virtually suspended.

THE FRENCH REPORT.

Hold Advances in Flanders—German Regiments Wiped Out.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Nov. 16.—The Government report to-night indicated merely that the Allies have maintained positions gained yesterday when the Germans were severely handled along the River Yser. The communiqué said:

There is no change in the situation.

The report of the afternoon gave the news that the Germans suffered a great loss yesterday near Bixschote, where an entire regiment was cut to pieces. The war strength of a German regiment is 3,000 men. They were hammered back from Ypres, where the Allies grasped the offensive in turn and seized positions captured by the Germans last week. Elsewhere no important operations.

The text of the report follows:

Along the canal of the Yser from Neuport upstream to Dixmude the action yesterday was restricted to cannonading. Fresh inundations have extended the flooded area to the south of Dixmude and as far as five kilometers north of Dixmude.

The enemy's forces which had attempted to cross the canal between the region of Dixmude and Bixschote were all repulsed across the bridges. One German regiment was entirely destroyed to the south of Bixschote.

To the southeast of Ypres two other German attacks have been repulsed. On our side we have taken the offensive and reconquered some points of support of which the enemy gained possession a few days ago.

Between the Yser and the other only minor operations are to be expected and our trenches have been pushed ahead in certain localities.

In the region of the Aisne and Champagne artillery duels without result have taken place.

In the Argonne region St. Hubert has been again attacked unsuccessfully by the Germans.

In the region of St. Mihiel the enemy failed in a surprise attack made against the Apremont forest.

In the Vosges Mountains there is little activity to report.

LULL IN WEST FLANDERS.

Germans Replacing Worn Out
Troops With Fresh Men.

By the London "Daily Mail" War Service.
Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROTTERDAM, Nov. 17.—The heavy losses of exhausted British soldiers there is a full in the fighting in West Flanders, the defeated and weary German troops having been sent north to a replacement of fresh men.

Each time my correspondents visited Wachtebeke and some of the neighboring villages for a week and the heavy losses of exhausted British soldiers there who had been compelled to give their